

**APPLICATION OF COLOUR IN ARCHITECTURE;  
AN EXAMINATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS  
MODES OF EXPRESSIONS IN GENERATING  
ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSIONS.**

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A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE  
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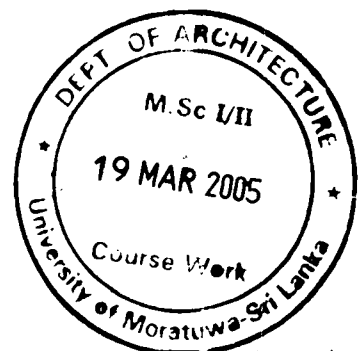
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## **INTRODUCTION**

### Topic explanation

The nature gives us a spectacular colour identification of elements within its global aspect. Humans identify colour contrast impressively than all other living beings in nature.

Therefore colour is part of a total sensory experience of our environment and contributes immeasurable beauty to the visual world. It is a part of every working and non-working moment of all of us, defining every thing we see, even tinting our dreams. As an integral part of our perceptual system, it helps us to identify objects, acts as a signaling device, conveying information about our surroundings. It is also being used to give direction, to warn or call attention to an object or event, to modify or change a structure to stimulate or to depress a person, to give a sense of place and thereby a sense of identity.



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"Colour affects our states of mind; some even believe in its power to cure illness. Whether or not you believe in the more cosmic theories about colour, there is certainly scientific proof that colour can warm us up or cool us down. When the eye sees that lovely yellow, the brain interprets and associates it with warm sunshine, and the opposite happens with a cool icy blue- its mind over matter."

Sally Walton, 2002, p.36

Psychology shows that colour has an enormous effect on the human emotional responses. It may influence the inner state, attitude or even well being of the viewer. Thus colour perception not only does lead to knowledge about things of the external world, but also deeply involved in evoking variety of human emotions and thereby affecting human behavior. This used as emotions generated in creative spaces applied beneficially in architectural renderings.

Architecture is not only a physical object already described but it further deserves to be an emotion generating art. These emotions generated through architecture are basically user, context, activity pattern, higher purpose and

colour application is more sensible and admirable in this fact. Colour application has to be done through its modes of expressions and such modes created basically through are form and shape; shaping means developing the form through building elements and its texture, material, lighting conditions and other decorative embellishments.(ornamentation)

Therefore architectural expressions could be achieved by using colour through its modes of expression not as isolated patches but by applying it in creative manner.

This dissertation is study of the colour application in architecture with special reference given to its modes of expression more vigorously.

#### Importance of the study



Our contacts with the whole environment are by way of our sensual perception. A man with a normally functioning visual system obtains perhaps the largest amount of information about his surrounding from his visual perception. Colour plays an important part in this flow of communication. Further, colour can affect on human behavior and the degree of finess to which it can be controlled is a fact that no architect or a designer can afford to ignore. A coat of paint is a lesser expense than any other element in architecture, can totally transform its atmosphere. As we are in a position of inability to rely on expensive finishes and methods to give a required spatial quality in a building, colour is an important tool of design. Today most of us are not making use of its power enough. Therefore it has become ignored or misused by most of people and not exploiting its full potentiality as a vital and positively corrective force which would be hazardous to the future well being of mankind.

There are no rules or directions which could be follow and closely guarantee good architecture. Analyzing, codifying and developing colour systems are useful as guidance and are acknowledged.

The importance of studying the impact of colour on generating architectural expressions rather than impact of colour on some other thing in architecture could be understood through realizing what itself means. Architecture is the creation of spaces for people not as a mere shelter but to satisfy their deeper needs(user), harmonize with neighborhood(context), satisfy with functional needs(activity pattern) and its higher purpose more than any other thing. The most effective fundamental way of successfully achievable colour application is accomplished by understanding the modes of its expressions. (ways of expressing ideas)

### Intention of the study

The intention of the study is to illustrate the fact that the use of colour in terms of its different modes of expressions as a tool of design which would enormously impact on architectural expressions and to what extent it has been affected. In other words it is to illustrate the variety and depth of its impact.

### Methodology



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First chapter to be focused on psychology of colour as the first step to know regarding its expressive qualities. They are the colour vision in human beings, divisions and characteristic qualities in nature, communicative properties and are needed to be theoretically studied to understand the expressionism of each and every colour.

Second chapter would be the study of colour application in response to architecture. Architecture is primarily a man's creation and therefore needed to be studied and understood our ancestors had used built art in built dwellings for their existence in the environment. Secondly it needs to understand the contemporary usage in architecture. Therefore the study of architectural exposition will be theoretically based on the fact how colour contribution could be dealt by modes of it expression.

Third chapter would be discussed and practically analyzed by using extracted examples from among categorized ones, which would further strengthen the study.

1. colour and user
2. colour and context
3. colour and activity pattern
4. colour and higher purpose

Different modes of colour expression would be discussed within each category in the above preface. For example 'colour and user', there will be sub categories like 'emphasizing the user category on form as it is a modification of colour combination.'

As the selected examples would never be the utopian, it would be looked at in a critical point of view and supported by the evidence obtained by literary and other sources. The study would further extend in suggesting alternatives to improve the situation.

The first and second parts of this dissertation are based on an attempt to put the reader in sound position of the subject, while the third will be the illustration of its implementation.



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### Scope and limitation

Sometimes discussion of all the ways of colour application would not be easier to explain through few examples. Most of the examples were attempted to achieve one aspect of colour application and very few does more. Therefore discussion should be continued on several other examples.